

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSOLIDATED RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letter and listing be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 11, 2008.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which I introduced yesterday, is a collection of 62 separate legislative measures under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of the bill is to facilitate consideration in the Senate of the large and growing number of measures relating to protection of natural resources and preservation of our historic heritage that have been passed by the House of Representatives and approved by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Forty-three of the measures in S. 2739 consist of the text of separate bills passed by the House of Representatives, twelve are drawn from separate titles, subtitles, or sections of two other House-passed bills, and two are House-passed concurrent resolutions. Only one provision, section 482, contains new matter that has not passed the House of Representatives.

While S. 2739 incorporates a number of provisions of S. 2483, the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Projects Authorization Act of 2007, which I introduced 3 months ago, on December 14, 2007, there are a number of differences between the bills that are dictated by the amount of time that has elapsed since last December and by action that has since taken place in the House of Representatives. Two of the sections included in S. 2483 last December were subsequently enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-161, and, accordingly, have been left out of S. 2739. Eight new provisions, drawn from eight separate House bills or resolutions, have been added. Two of the effective dates in title VIII of S. 2483 have been extended in S. 2739 in light of the passage of time since S. 2483 was introduced. In addition, minor modifications were made in a few other provisions.

Although S. 2739 has not been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, all of the House bills that make up S. 2739 or their Senate companions have either been reported or ordered reported by the Committee.

Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate provides that, before proceeding to the consideration of a bill, the chairman of the committee of jurisdiction must certify that each congressionally designated spending item in the bill and the name of the Senator requesting it has been identified and posted on a publicly accessible website. The term “congressionally designated spending item” is broadly defined, in pertinent part, to include “ a provision . . . included primarily at the request of a Senator . . . authorizing . . . a specific amount of discretionary budget authority . . . for . . . expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.”

Fifteen of the House-passed measures incorporated into S. 2739 contain provisions authorizing the appropriation of specific amounts targeted to specific entities or localities. These authorizations are included in S. 2739 because they are part of the text of

the House-passed bills. No Senator submitted a request to me to include them.

In the interest of furthering the transparency and accountability of the legislative process, however, I have posted a list of the specific authorizations in S. 2739 on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources’ website. The list includes the name of the principal sponsor of the Senate companion measure that corresponds to the House-passed bill. A copy of the list is attached for your convenience.

I previously asked the principal sponsor of the Senate companion measure of each House bill contained in S. 2483 to certify that neither the Senator nor the Senator’s immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the item, and have posted the certifications I have received on the Committee’s website. All certifications received in relation to S. 2483 remain on the Committee’s website, where they are available for public inspection in accordance with paragraph 6 of Rule XLIV. I have not received any requests for new congressionally directed spending items to be included in S. 2739.

Thus, in accordance with Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby certify that each congressionally directed spending item in S. 2739 has been identified through a list and that the list was posted on the Committee’s publicly accessible website at approximately 3:00 p.m. on March 11, 2008.

Sincerely,

JEFF BINGAMAN,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEM CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

S. 2739—THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

Provisions in S. 2739 authorizing appropriations in a specific amount for expenditure with or to an entity or targeted to a specific State, locality, or congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process:

Section	Program or entity	State	Principal sponsor of Senate bill
314(c)	Acadia National Park	ME	Collins
333(e)	American Latino Museum Commission	DC	Salazar
334(j)	Hudson-Fulton and Champlain Commissions	NY & VT	Clinton
342(f)	Lewis & Clark Visitor Center	NE	Hagel
409	Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area	VA	Warner
430	Niagara Falls National Heritage Area	NY	Schumer
449	Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area	IL	Durbin
461	Multiple National Heritage Areas	OH, PA, MA, SC	Voinovich
		WV, TN, GA, IA, & NY	none
504(d)	Watkins Dam	UT	Hatch
505	New Mexico water planning assistance	NM	Domenici
509	Multiple Oregon water projects	OR	Smith/Wyden
511	Eastern Municipal Water District	CA	Feinstein
512	Bay Area water recycling program	CA	Feinstein
515(b)(6)	Platte River	NB, WY, CO	Nelson (of NB)
516(c)	Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District	OK	Inhofe

ARREST OF VIKTOR BOUT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was pleased to hear about the recent arrest of Viktor Bout, one of the most notorious arms dealers in the world. Last week, Mr. Bout, was arrested in Thailand by a U.S. sting operation in collaboration with Thai authorities which apprehended him as he was allegedly trying to sell weapons to the FARC the main Colombian rebel group and an or-

ganization that has also been placed on the U.S. terrorist list.

If Bout is charged and convicted in Thailand, he faces 10 years in prison, while if the U.S. is able to extradite him he will face 15 years. I certainly recognize the need to ensure a free and fair trial for Mr. Bout that is his right but I am nonetheless pleased that after numerous attempts he has finally been arrested. For years, Bout has been able

to evade law enforcement officers around the world, despite investigations by the U.N., the media, and even intelligence sources that indicate his complicity in arms smuggling and his role in fueling some of the world’s most brutal wars in some cases by providing weapons to both sides of the conflict.